BINDING ENERGY OF PARALLEL CARBON NANOTUBES

B. Chen*, M. Gao⁺, J. Zuo⁺, Y. Huang*, and S. Qu^{*}

*Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801 huang9@uiuc.edu

⁺Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801 mingao@uiuc.edu

We have used TEM to study the interaction between two carbon nanotubes. The TEM image, in conjunction with a continuum mechanics model, provides an estimate of binding energy between two parallel carbon nanotubes. We have also used an atomistic model to study the binding energy. The prediction from the TEM image and mechanics model agrees well with the atomistic studies.